

Amendments to the Abstract:

At new page 42, please insert the abstract printed on the following page for this application, as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

Disclosed are methods for identifying and evaluating the binding properties of substances to the amyloid precursor protein (APP) or to β -amyloid ($A\beta$) fragments of APP. Also disclosed is a class of benzofuran derivatives of formula (I), which interact specifically with APP or $A\beta$, and block interaction of APP or $A\beta$ with secretase or APP or $A\beta$ binding antibodies.